

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 22 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 16, and 19 are amended and claims 5 and 22 are cancelled. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that claims 8 - 15 are allowed and that claims 5 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

On page 2 the Office Action rejects claims 1, 16, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 "because the [claims do] not result in a physical transformation nor [do they] appear to provide a useful, concrete and tangible result." This rejection of claims 1, 16, and 19 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate all the features of allowable claim 5, and claim 5 is cancelled. Claim 16 is amended to recite all the elements of allowable claim 22, and claim 22 is cancelled. Claim 19 also is amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 22. Accordingly, claims 1, 16, and 19 are allowable in view of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 16, and 19 is respectfully requested.

On page 2 the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 16 - 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Pomerantz. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 16 are amended to incorporate all the limitations of their allowable dependent claims 5 and 22, respectively. Claim 19 also is amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 22. Accordingly, claims 1, 16, and 19 also are allowable. Claims 17 and 18 depend from allowable claim 16, and claim 20 depends from allowable claim 19. For this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 17, 18, and 20 also are allowable. withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 16 - 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully traversed.

On page 4 the Office Action rejects claims 3, 6, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Pomerantz in view of Fiamingo. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 6, and 21 depend from allowable claim 1. For this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 3, 6, and 21 also are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 6, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

On page 5 the Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Pomerantz in view of U.S. patent 6,272,519 to Shearer, Jr. et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 depends from allowable claim 1. For this reason and the additional features it recites, claim 7 also is allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt examination and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



John K. Harrop, Reg. No. 41,817
ANDREWS KURTH LLP
1350 I Street, NW
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
Tel. (202) 662-2700
Fax (202) 662-2739

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